

# Astronauts Memorial dedication

## All creatures great and small grasp significance

### SPACE BRIEFS

#### Quayle errs on Discovery landing site

**By FLORIDA TODAY Staff and Wire Reports**  
Vice President Dan Quayle made an embarrassing gaffe Thursday during the dedication of the \$6.2 million Astronauts Memorial at Kennedy Space Center.

In a speech before 2,000 people at Spaceport USA, Quayle — chairman of the National Space Council — misidentified Shuttle Discovery's latest landing site.

"To know America's history is to understand our love of adventure and exploration, boldness and ingenuity," Quayle said.

"From the vast travels of Lewis and Clark, from the laboratory of Thomas Edison to the garage of Henry Ford, from the sands of Kitty Hawk to the desert of Edwards Air Force Base, where the Shuttle Discovery landed just three days ago. All of these moments in history illustrate the great American spirit of discovery and high achievements," he said.

One of those moments, however, occurred about five miles from the podium where Quayle stood. Discovery landed Monday at KSC's Shuttle runway.

"We're a little red-faced on the staff here after that error," said David Beckwith, Quayle's press secretary.

He said the speech was written before plans to land Discovery at Edwards were changed because of high winds at the California base.

#### Four training jets fly in missing man tribute

Four T-38 training jets screamed over the crowd Thursday, then one suddenly pulled away, leaving a hole in the formation.

With the "missing man" maneuver, NASA Shuttle pilots gave 15 astronauts who have died in the line of duty aviation's most emotional tribute.

Ironically, astronaut Manley "Sonny" Carter had been slated to fly in the formation before he was killed in a plane crash last month.

On Thursday the maneuver was performed in his memory.

Participants included astronauts David Hilmers, William Readdy, Stephen Oswald, Andrew Allen, Eugene Cernan and Ron Grabe.

#### KSC workers ready Columbia for voyage

As the Astronauts Memorial was being dedicated, Kennedy Space Center workers were busy about 10 miles away preparing Columbia for a May 22 liftoff.

Launch pad 39B was closed for normal work as technicians filled Columbia's onboard storage tanks with toxic rocket chemicals that will be used in space to power the Orbiter's steering thrusters and maneuvering engines.

Today, workers will reinstall a portable emergency breathing device that accidentally fell into a safety net within the Spacelab module now residing in Columbia's cargo bay. The small, 18-pound oxygen bottle and mask did not damage Spacelab, officials said.

Senior Shuttle managers will meet next week to set an official launch date. The Orbiter is to fly a nine-day mission to research the effects of space upon living things.

**By John McAleenan FLORIDA TODAY**

There was just enough of the right stuff to make the Astronauts Memorial dedication a pretty special day.

There was enough of a reunion about it all to unleash a flood of memories as our astronauts of other decades mingled in the crowd.

There was enough patriotic fervor to make the soul soar. Enough memories to bring tears. Enough innocence to renew the faith. Enough nostalgia to cause bittersweet smiles. And just enough breeze to ease the sweltering heat.

At different times, it seemed jovial enough to be a dress-up Sunday picnic and somber enough to graciously honor fallen heroes.

An eclectic crowd of 1,800 or so began gathering about an hour before the 11 a.m. ceremonies, seeking precious shade under a few small live oaks. They came in turbans and starched linens and rumpled blue suits and wide straw hats and dress Navy whites.

There were kids in sailor suits pinned with roses and young ladies in best white dresses and satin bows and what seemed a small army of Secret Service men who twitched not a muscle nor smiled not even the smallest smile the whole time. The wisest few came with umbrellas for shade, among them, Mary Jo Jansson of Houston, founder and president of The Great American Flag Association.

Mary Jo is proud keeper of a 7-ton, 410-foot by 210-foot American flag that she had hoped might be a part of the ceremonies. After several queries, she was told it probably could not be flown safely near the

site. "I'm not discouraged about that," Mary Jo said. "We're working now for a permanent site on the Potomac River. It's really quite impressive when you see it waving in the breeze."

Mercury-Apollo astronaut Alan Shepard came early and immediately was besieged by polite but insistent requests for pictures and autographs. He signed and smiled for the long 100 yards to his seat.

His thoughts on the day: "There are mixed emotions, I guess. But the folks we're honoring today, they were doing what they wanted to do — and they were having a good time doing it. So I think there's a positive feeling about it all. It's a good day."

Patrick Air Force Base sent a color guard to add a touch of military formality. Disney World sent an a cappella choir to sing America's anthems. Orlando sent a small army of sound engineers called Dreams Across America, who mixed the audio and fed the signals to Lockheed, which sent every word of the ceremony to the farthest corners of the country, maybe even the world.

In his brief remarks, Vice President Dan Quayle did a nice job in finding an inspirational Carl Sandburg quote: "Nothing happens unless first there is a dream," but a somewhat misguided job in landing the Shuttle Discovery on the wrong side of the country. No one, not even a Democrat, was impolite enough to hoot aloud at this gaffe, but it caused a wave of muffled murmuring through the audience.

The emotions of the day heightened incredibly when the families were called to make what seemed a long, lonely walk up a ramp to the



Michael R. Brown, FLORIDA TODAY

**EMOTIONS ESCALATE** as families of the astronauts honored by the Space Mirror gather Thursday at the base of the memorial for the reading of

the names of their loved ones. Among the relatives is Grace Corrigan, far right, who is the mother of Challenger's Christa McAuliffe.

base of the memorial. The names of the astronauts were read and the families and friends stood and walked hand-in-hand, sometimes carrying toddlers, sometimes hugging those next to them. It was a quiet and sad walk, broken only occasionally by the rasping cries of sea gulls.

Only a few people were invited for this ceremony and there might

or might not have been tears, but the moment was broken by the sudden release of what seemed a dozen white doves or pigeons, which scattered to the south, flying wildly through the sky, astounding the sea gulls and probably alerting a few hungry hawks nearby.

What kind of day? Colleen Shewbrooks wrinkled her nose at the question. Colleen is freckled, green-

eyed, almost 10 and in the fifth grade at Challenger 7 Elementary in Port St. John. She was there with her class and excited about... well, just being there with all the astronauts and senators and famous people like that. "It's hard to explain," she explained, "but this shows we care about those who can't be here. I'm just awfully glad they are having a special day like this."

So, it seemed, was everyone else.

## Leaders of space exploration attend event

**By Jim Banke FLORIDA TODAY**

The names read like a roll call of America's great space pioneers.

More than two dozen NASA astronauts — veterans and rookies — honored fallen comrades Thursday at the dedication of the Astronauts Memorial at Kennedy Space Center.

Alan Shepard, the first American

to fly in space, was there, along with Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon. So was Gene Cernan, veteran Gemini and Apollo astronaut, and Rick Hauck, commander of the first post-Challenger Shuttle mission.

They all seemed to appreciate the \$6.2 million national monument. "I think it is wonderful," Armstrong said. "It'll be a fitting addition to all the other motivational things

visitors will see here."

Three million guests are expected to see the monument in the next year, and the astronauts hope visitors connect faces with the names.

"Those are real human beings who are risking their lives in this program, and when you can read people's names it really helps for that to sink in," Hauck said.

The monument includes the

names of Gregory Jarvis and Christa McAuliffe, two non-career astronauts who were flying aboard Challenger.

"It's only right," said Charles Walker, a McDonnell Douglas engineer who flew aboard the Shuttle three times as a payload specialist. "I think what we see here today is a visible, certain recognition that those people accepted risks, just like the NASA career astronauts."

## 15 space pioneers gave lives over 30-year trek

**Associated Press**

Fifteen astronauts have been killed in the line of duty since America's first manned spaceflight 30 years ago.

Four died in training jet accidents without having flown in space:

■ Theodore Freeman, 34. Killed outside Houston on Oct. 31, 1964. Air Force captain and engineer.

■ Elliot See Jr., 38. Killed in St. Louis on Feb. 28, 1966. Engineer chosen as Gemini 9 command pilot.

■ Charles Bassett II, 34. Killed with See. Air Force captain and

engineer chosen as pilot of Gemini 9.

■ Clifton Williams Jr., 35. Killed en route to Mobile, Ala., on Oct. 5, 1967. Marine major and engineer.

Three astronauts died in the Apollo 1 spacecraft launch pad fire at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station on Jan. 27, 1967:

■ Virgil "Gus" Grissom, 40. Air Force lieutenant colonel and engineer. Mercury astronaut. Command pilot of Gemini 3.

■ Edward White II, 36. Air Force lieutenant colonel and engineer. Pilot of Gemini 4. Performed the

first U.S. spacewalk in 1965 flight.

■ Roger Chaffee, 31. Navy lieutenant commander and engineer. Never flew in space.

Seven died in the Challenger explosion on Jan. 28, 1986:

■ Francis "Dick" Scobee, 46. An engineer. Flew in space once in 1984. Commander of Challenger's final flight.

■ Michael Smith, 40. Navy captain and engineer. Pilot for Challenger's final flight, his first.

■ Ellison Onizuka, 39. Air Force lieutenant colonel and engineer.

Flew in space once in 1985.

■ Judith Resnik, 36. Engineer. Flew in space once in 1984.

■ Ronald McNair, 35. Physicist. Flew in space once in 1984.

■ S. Christa McAuliffe, 37. High school teacher.

■ Gregory Jarvis, 41. Engineer making his first spaceflight.

The most recent astronaut to die in the line of duty was Manley "Sonny" Carter Jr., 43. A Navy captain and flight surgeon, he was killed in a plane crash on April 5, en route to a speech for NASA.

## Nearly 2,000 gather at space center for memorial dedication

**MEMORIAL, From 1A**

lenger crew members, three Apollo astronauts and four astronauts who died in training jet crashes are etched into the granite. A gold star marks the spot where the name of Shuttle astronaut Manley "Sonny" Carter will be added.

Carter died last month in an airplane crash on his way to talk to students about the space program. There was not time to add his name before Thursday's ceremony.

By design, the monument tracks the sun's movement and reflects the astronauts' names skyward.

The names are carved completely through the granite like stencils. Sun shines through the names, then is reflected back toward the heavens by mirrors behind the face of the monument, which turns slowly on a computer-controlled pedestal. Artificial light will be used at night and on overcast days.

"It reminds me of seeing the Shuttle at the launch pad at night," said Lorna Onizuka. Her husband, Ellison, a mission specialist, died in the 1986 Challenger explosion.

"It's special in the sense that this is a memorial for all 15 families to share. A lot of them have had individual memorials and tributes, but I think this is nice in the sense

that we now have all of their spirits together."

Family by family, relatives of the fallen astronauts solemnly walked up a gently sloping sidewalk, stopping at the monument's base, where Quayle, NASA Administrator Richard Truly and Astronauts Memorial Foundation founder Alan Helman had placed a wreath of flowers.

A dedication plaque reads: "Whenever mankind has sought to conquer new frontiers there have been those who have given their lives for the cause. This Astronauts Memorial, dedicated May 9, 1991, is a tribute to the American men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice, believing the conquest of

space is worth the risk of life."

President Bush signed a bill Wednesday declaring the \$6.2 million memorial a national monument. AMF raised the money for the memorial and a \$2 million trust fund for its care through the sale of Challenger license plates.

"This was a very overwhelming ceremony for us and we sincerely thank the people of Florida for making this possible," said Ellen Jarvis, whose stepson, Gregory, died in the Challenger accident.

Added Carl McNair, whose son, Ronald, also died aboard Challenger. "A lot of fathers have lost sons and nothing good has come out of it. I look at this and I think of all the

good that will come."

The families support AMF's plan to build a space education center to complement the monument.

"Think of what they might tell us if they were here today," Quayle said. "I believe they would say, 'Carry on, America. Continue on our path. Live the dream. Build the future.'"

"That is what America will do. And like this inspiring space mirror that bears their names, our pioneering spirit and our willingness to dream will be our lasting tribute to them."

Florida Today Staff Writer Jim Banke contributed to this report.

### USA/WORLD NEWSMAKERS

## Singer Gatlin to pick up diploma 21 years late

Country singer Larry Gatlin plans to pick up his diploma from the University of Houston next week, 21 years after he finished his studies.

Gatlin, 43, was denied graduation in 1970 because he never completed third-year Spanish for a since-reduced foreign language requirement, said Lawrence Curry, an associate dean.



GATLIN

When he was named the university's outstanding alumnus of 1988, Gatlin said he regretted not getting his degree. Then-university President Richard Van Horn started the process that will result in Gatlin appearing in cap and gown on May 18 with 5,000 other graduates.

Gatlin will sing the alma mater

and national anthem. Gatlin recorded the hit "All the Gold in California" with brothers Steve and Rudy.

#### Princess Diana tickles ivories for orphan girl

Princess Diana, an accomplished but out-of-practice pianist, was persuaded by an orphaned 7-year-old girl to play "Greensleeves" on Thursday.

On the last day of the British royal couple's four-day visit to Czechoslovakia, Diana accompanied Olga Havlova, President Vaclav Havel's wife, to the House of Children, a cultural establishment in Prague. Meeting with orphaned children, Diana listened to children sing and dance.

"Now it is your turn," a girl told the princess.

Flustered, Diana said, "I have not played in such a long time," but, blushing, later delivered a complicated version of the classic "Greensleeves."

#### 'Godfather of Soul' gives thumbs up to Hammer

Singer James Brown praises rapper M.C. Hammer in a magazine interview for adhering to copyright law.



BROWN

things to say about Hammer, who sampled one of Brown's songs and made sure all royalties were paid.

#### Michael Landon jokes around on Carson show

A standing ovation and wild cheering greeted actor Michael

Landon as he appeared on Johnny Carson's talk show Thursday night.

It was his first public appearance since he was diagnosed last month with inoperable cancer of the liver and pancreas.

Landon, 54, laughed and told jokes during most of the opening segment of "The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson."

He admonished supermarket tabloids for printing lurid headlines about his cancer, stories his younger children have seen and are frightened by.

"It's unbelievable that people can be that way," Landon said. "That's the cancer. That's the cancer in our society."

#### Also...

Italian film star Laura Antonelli was given a 3½-year suspended sentence and fined \$19,000 Thursday for possession of 1¼ ounces of cocaine found at her home.

Compiled by Rebecca Fullen

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